

**International  
Association of  
Machinists and  
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301  
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

September 30, 2020

The Honorable James Inhofe  
Chairman  
Senate Armed Services Committee  
205 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member  
Senate Armed Services Committee  
728 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Chairman  
House Armed Services Committee  
2264 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mac Thornberry  
Ranking Member  
House Armed Services Committee  
2208 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

On behalf of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW), the largest defense union in the United States, **I strongly urge you to retain language in the House-passed bill to authorize procurement of two Virginia-class submarines as you work to complete action on conference of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2021.** The restoration of funding for this second submarine would provide the Navy with the resources it needs to continue rebuilding our nation's dwindling fleet of fast-attack submarines, while bolstering our domestic industrial base and creating high-quality jobs in the U.S. shipbuilding industry.

As the U.S. fleet of attack submarines continues to decline, our military leadership has repeatedly called the looming submarine shortfall one of their top national security concerns. In testimony before the House and Senate Armed Services Committees with regard to the FY21 budget, Defense Department and Navy leaders have stated that the reduction of one Virginia-class submarine was due to late-stage funding shifts, and is not reflective of Navy or Department of Defense priorities. In response to recent questioning before the Armed Services committees, Chief of Naval operations Admiral Michael Gilday stated, "If you asked me, if I could give you one ship today, what would it be? It would be a Virginia-class submarine." If congress does not act to adequately support this vitally important program, the Navy's fleet is predicted to hit a dangerous low of only 42 submarines in 2027, far lower than the Navy's stated minimum requirement of 66 attack submarines. This would leave our U.S. national security at risk with a fleet of submarines that is one-third less than our Navy requires.

Consistent and continued funding for the Virginia-class submarine program is not only necessary in order to properly equip the U.S. Navy, but it is also needed to promote the health of

the U.S. shipbuilding industry and our domestic industrial base. The Navy has clearly affirmed its faith in our domestic shipbuilding industry to support a second VA-class submarine in 2021. In recent testimony before the House Armed Services Seapower Subcommittee, Navy acquisition chief James Geurts affirmed, "I'm confident that they can execute the ship." Furthermore, proper funding of this program will act to stabilize and bolster the industrial base and its workforce as we ramp up to full production on the Columbia-class program. By utilizing our industrial capacity to produce an adequate number of submarines, we will strengthen our nationwide supply chain and strengthen our high-skilled workforce as we ramp up on other high-priority shipbuilding and defense programs.

**On behalf of the thousands of Machinists Union members proudly working in the shipbuilding industry across the United States, I urge you to support the House-passed language through conference of the FY21 NDAA to authorize funding for two Virginia-class submarines in FY21 and continue to rebuild our nation's diminishing submarine fleet.**

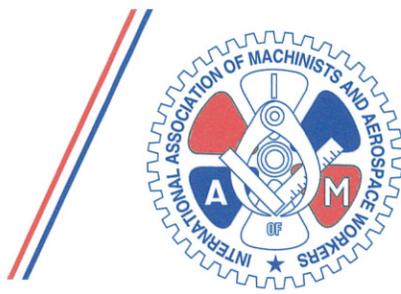
If you have any questions, please contact Legislative Director Hasan Solomon at (301) 967-4575 or [hsolomon@iamaw.org](mailto:hsolomon@iamaw.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Martinez, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Martinez, Jr.  
International President

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OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

September 30, 2020

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman  
Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee  
304 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Ranking Member  
Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Peter Visclosky  
Chairman  
House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee  
2328 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Ranking Member  
House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee  
2205 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

On behalf of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW), the largest defense union in the United States, **I strongly urge you to support the House-passed position of full funding for two Virginia-Class submarines in Fiscal Year 2021 as you work to finalize Department of Defense Appropriations legislation for FY21.** The restoration of funding for this second submarine would provide the Navy with the resources it needs continue rebuilding our nation's dwindling fleet of fast-attack submarines, bolster our domestic industrial base, and create high-quality jobs in the U.S. shipbuilding industry.

As the U.S. fleet of attack submarines continues to decline, our military leadership has repeatedly called the looming submarine shortfall one of their top national security concerns. In testimony before the House and Senate Armed Services Committees with regard to the FY21 budget, Defense Department and Navy leaders have stated that the reduction of one Virginia-class submarine was due to late-stage funding shifts, and is not reflective of Navy or Department of Defense priorities. In response to recent questioning before the Armed Services committees, Chief of Naval operations Admiral Michael Gilday stated, "If you asked me, if I could give you one ship today, what would it be? It would be a Virginia-class submarine." If congress does not act to adequately support this vitally important program, the Navy's fleet is predicted to hit a dangerous low of only 42 submarines in 2027, far lower than the Navy's stated minimum requirement of 66 attack submarines. This would leave our U.S. national security at risk with a fleet of submarines that is one-third less than our Navy requires.

Consistent and continued funding for the Virginia-class submarine program is not only necessary in order to properly equip the U.S. Navy, but it is also needed to promote the health of the U.S. shipbuilding industry and our domestic industrial base. The Navy has clearly affirmed its faith in our domestic shipbuilding industry to support a second VA-class submarine in 2021. In recent testimony before the House Armed Services Seapower Subcommittee, Navy acquisition chief James Geurts affirmed, "I'm confident that they can execute the ship." Furthermore, proper funding of this program will act to stabilize and bolster the industrial base and its workforce as we ramp up to full production on the Columbia-class program. By utilizing our industrial capacity to produce an adequate number of submarines, we will strengthen our nationwide supply chain and strengthen our high-skilled workforce as we ramp up on other high-priority shipbuilding and defense programs.

**On behalf of the thousands of Machinists Union members proudly working in the shipbuilding industry across the United States, I urge you to support the House-passed position of full funding for two Virginia-class submarines in FY 2021 in order to continue to rebuild our nation's diminishing submarine fleet.**

If you have any questions, please contact Legislative Director Hasan Solomon at (301) 967-4575 or [hsolomon@iamaw.org](mailto:hsolomon@iamaw.org).

Sincerely,

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Robert Martinez, Jr.  
International President